

burned. But even at this advanced date the English Bible and Wycliffe's * Wicket' were the only literature of the accused: we hear nothing of German or Lutheran influence, which indeed had not time to spread into the little villages and country towns which the Bishops attacked.¹

During the reign of Henry the Seventh there were renewed persecutions in such old Lollard centres as Bristol, Salisbury, and Coventry, and one or two persons were burnt in Norfolk and Kent. But we hear of no heresy outside the old range of Lollard influence.² In London, between 1500 and 1518, men were forced to recant by the score, while four or five were burnt. The capital had always contained Wycliffites, and the connexion between the London Protestants of this period and their predecessors of the fifteenth century is confirmed, if it needs confirmation, by the express statements of their persecutors. In 1514 Richard Hun, who soon afterwards died in prison in the Lollards' Tower under suspicious circumstances, was accused of 'having in his keeping divers works prohibited and damned by the law, as the Apocalypse in English, the Epistles and Gospels in English, and Wycliffe's damnable works.'³ Another man had * divers times read the said book called Wycliffe's Wicket,' which had been introduced to him many years before by an old Lollard who was burnt at Salisbury in 1503.⁴ Still more important is the opinion of Tunstall, Bishop of London, on the effect of Lutheranism in England, which he expresses in a private letter to Erasmus in the year 1523. 'It is no question/ he writes, 'of some pernicious novelty; it is only that new arms are being added to the great band of Wyclifite heretics.'⁵ Erasmus himself, writing the same year to Pope Adrian the Sixth, to urge on the new Pontiff the remarkable doctrine of the uselessness of persecution, confesses that 'once the party of the Wycliffites was overcome by the power of the Kings; but,' he adds, 'it was only overcome and not extinguished/ ⁶

¹ Foxe, iv. 123-4, 213-4, 221-46.

² Seyer's *Memoirs of Bristol*, ed. 1823, 213; Foxe, iv. 126-8; Norfolk, Foxe iv. 8; Salisbury, Foxe, iv. 126-8 and 207; Kent, Foxe, iv. 7; Coventry, Foxe, iv. 133.

* *Ibid.* iv. 207-8, iii. 7.

⁵ Erasmus, 1159.

³ ^oxe, iv. 184, " *Ibid.* 787.